

## Have Multiple Ways to Get Alerts & Warnings

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It is important to have multiple ways to receive weather alerts & emergency information.

**NOAA Weather Radios** are one of the fastest and most reliable way to get weather updates and warnings.

**Alert Hamilton County**- Sign up for severe weather alerts, life-safety information & emergency messages at [www.alerthc.org](http://www.alerthc.org).

**Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)** are based on your current location & will alert you anytime you are inside an "Extreme Weather Warning" area – Tornado Warning or Flash Flood Warning. Check the "Notification" settings of your smartphone to enable WEAs.

**The Emergency Alert System** transmits weather, emergency and safety information to radio and television stations.

**Social Media**- Follow Hamilton County EMHSA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on the Nextdoor App for preparedness information. Emergency information available on Twitter & Facebook.

**EMHSA App**- Download the EMHSA app in the App Store and Google Play to receive push notifications about severe weather & emergency information, and to check weather & traffic conditions.



## Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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### MISSION

Provide effective coordination and collaboration to create a culture of preparedness that builds and sustains a disaster resistant and resilient community in Hamilton County.

### VALUES

Our values guide our decisions and actions through community, leadership, integrity, collaboration, professionalism, and innovation.

### CONTACT

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## Outdoor Warning Sirens

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**Take Cover.  
Tune In.  
Take Action.**

**[WWW.HCREADY.ORG](http://WWW.HCREADY.ORG)**

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What should I do when I hear the sirens?

Immediately seek shelter indoors. If possible, go to the lowest level of your home, & shelter within in the most interior room of the building, avoiding all windows. Tune in to a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio and/or local media for more information.

### How long will the sirens sound during a Tornado Warning?

During a Tornado Warning, the sirens will sound for three minutes. After three minutes of sound, there will be a seven-minute span of quiet. This cycling of three minutes of sound with a seven minute silent pause in between, will last until the Tornado Warning has expired or is cancelled.

### Do the Outdoor Warning Sirens sound an all-clear signal?

There will be no "all clear" signal sounded by the sirens.

### Can I hear the sirens indoors?

Sirens are not guaranteed to be heard indoors. Sirens are intended to alert those outside to seek immediate shelter indoors.

### Why might I hear the Outdoor Warning Sirens during a thunderstorm or rain?

The sirens in Hamilton County will only sound during a Tornado Warning or to warn people to immediately seek shelter indoors. You may be hearing an electronic lightning detection alert system on a local golf course.

## Siren Activations

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The Hamilton County Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated for the following reasons:

1. The National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Tornado Warning for Hamilton County.
2. A Trained and Certified Weather Spotter reports a tornado to the NWS or to Hamilton County EMHSA.
3. A tornado is reported by a local public safety official to the NWS or to Hamilton County EMHSA.
4. A dangerous situation occurs (hazardous material spill) which requires

### Siren Test Cancellations

Siren test activations are cancelled for the following reasons:

1. Extreme cold, freezing rain/drizzle or icy conditions that may damage the siren equipment if it is activated.
2. Severe weather (or potential for severe weather) occurring in Hamilton County at the time of the test.



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Why is the Outdoor Warning Siren System activated?

Sirens are sounded for the following reasons:

- The NWS issues a Tornado Warning for Hamilton County.
- A tornado is reported by a local public safety official (police/firefighter) to the NWS or to Hamilton County EMHSA.
- A hazardous material spill has occurred in their area & they should immediately seek shelter indoors.
- Regularly scheduled Monthly tests.

### When are the Sirens tested?

Sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m., unless rescheduled/cancelled due to inclement weather. During the test, the sirens will sound for one minute.

### Who activates the sirens?

Sirens are activated by Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency or the Hamilton County Communications Center.

### Why are siren tests rescheduled/cancelled?

Tests are rescheduled to the second Wednesday of the month if Hamilton County day/time of the test. If inclement weather occurs on the day of the rescheduled test, the test will be cancelled for the month.